

THE MESSENGER

“MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH”

March 13, 2019

A NEW KID IN TOWN

Wow! Y'all know how to welcome a couple home-grown kids from Indiana back from the southside of Virginia! I know that you have been eagerly waiting for our arrival, but I am wonderfully amazed at how well you have managed to hold things together during the wait. I am thankful for each person who has stepped out of their comfort zone and taken on new responsibilities during this time without a Pastor.

Some of you were more anxious than others for that time when you would no longer have need to fulfill some of those behind-the-scene tasks that most congregants didn't even know needed to be done. In this time of transition, many of you have grown in your own spirituality; intentional or not. Don't you love how God moves us into new ways of serving in ministry; without our knowledge?

I have seen a marvelous outpouring of love from the entire congregation and some of that stems from the fact that you now know more about what a Pastor is responsible for. Having said that, I have seen success in congregations where members take an active role in the worship service; giving them ownership in what it means to come together on Sunday to worship. I hope that we can work together to continue that aspect of corporate worship at FCC Paris. And for the part where we get to serve side by side in ministry and mission – I am honored to stand beside you; to the glory of God.

In Christ's Love, *Pastor Parky*



Meet & Greet for the Parkinson's

A "Meet and Greet (& EAT!)" will be held for Pastor Mark and Kendala Parkinson this Sunday, March 17 from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. It's a time for desserts and stories to be shared as we get to know each other. Everyone is invited!



24 Hour Prayer Vigil

FCC joins with other churches to pray around the clock from January 1 to Easter every year. Each church has a 24-Hour period and ours is always the Saturday before Palm Sunday. This year that will be April 13; and we will pray from 8:00 AM Saturday through 8:00 AM Sunday, April 14. We divide the time segments into 30 minute slots and ask you to sign up for at least one time period. The Prayer Vigil sign-up will be posted by the sign-up desk. Many have found this designated time to pray a very special time with God, and we host it in our own FCC Prayer Room. If you've not been a part of it before, try it this year. If you have signed up each year, thank you and please do so again this year.



Hospitalized: Elvis Ward, Paris
Ken Dennison, Union

Sympathies to Montana Boatman on the passing of her grandmother, Barbara Boatman, Cassie's mother-in-law.



-- all the Committee Chairs for their newsletter articles for each edition from January to last week;

-- Donna Garver for securing all the Guest Speakers each Sunday until Pastor Parkinson was here;

-- Evie Gill for the 8:00 piano accompaniment;

-- Troy Sanders for the Children's Sermon;

-- JC Foley for his work on the upstairs closets.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

An unused Bible is worthless.
A well-worn Bible is priceless.

MARCH PRAYER

"Lord, no matter what this year has in store for us, we know You are always working for our good. As we grow in strength and grace, let us keep our eyes on You, Amen."

LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten Music & Meditation services will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Paris each Wednesday at noon from March 13 to April 10. Afterwards a light lunch will be served in the downstairs Fellowship Hall for a small cost. All are invited.

LENTEN PRAYER PACKETS

There are 22 Lenten Prayer Packets still available. Pick one up to pray for others.

RAMP ENTRY

For the safety of our congregation, there will be a chain at the ramp entrance to the Prayer Room to close the ramp whenever the weather makes it too dangerous to use. Even though icemelt is distributed very early on Sunday mornings, there is not enough time for temperatures to rise so that the ice is melted in time for morning services. This means the ramp is still patchy. Therefore, we are asking you to use Washington Street entrance, and the elevator if needed, to enter the sanctuary. Elevator usage instructions are displayed inside or you can ask anyone for help. Thank you.
- The Trustees

"SPLINTERS" FROM THE BOARD

At the March meeting of the Executive Board:

- had prayer around the hourglass for our new beginning, with devotions by Nels Kasey;
- welcomed Rev. Mark & Kendala Parkinson;
- approved support to youth to attend Camp Illiana in 2019;
- approved the youth Sunday morning Coffee Bar, with donations to go to camp fees of youth serving; a Marriage Night seminar to be scheduled between May 17-June 17; & discussed a youth Mission Trip to Tennessee to help build a church and other youth ideas;
- received resignations of Cory & Denise Craig, approved nominations of Dean Smittkamp, Deacon & Edna Creech, Board Secretary;
- heard committee reports: 1st grade books are ordered; new memorial list was approved; report from office read; agreed to sponsor a free movie for children during spring break;
- agreed to try a combined service on the months with a fifth Sunday, service at 9 AM with Sunday School either prior or following, would amount to four times a year;
- approved housing loan for Pastor Snidle;
- heard a thank you from the Parkinson's for all the help in moving and the loving welcome;
- closed with prayers for those in need.

CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Fill out and turn in church scholarships! Deadline is April 15.

SECRET PLACE

Several "Secret Place" devotionals for March-April-May are still available. Look for them at the entryways.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will not meet next Tuesday, March 19, but will resume on March 26 at 10:30 AM.

PASTOR TROY FUNDRAISER

Pastor Troy Warner, of the First Baptist Church here in Paris, had to undergo heart surgery back in February. FBC will be having a "Turkey & Noodle Dinner" on Sunday, Mar. 31, in order to raise funds to offset the medical expenses. Dinner also includes: mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, dessert and drink. They are asking for at least an \$8 donation, \$5 for children 10 and under. There will be a drive-thru from the back east-west alley out to Central St.

CIRCLES IN MARCH

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: meets Thursday, Mar. 14, at 6:00 PM at the church.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE: meets Tuesday, Mar. 19, at 1:30 PM at the home of Corky Davidson. The study leader will be Mary Helen Hamilton.

KOINONIA CIRCLE: meets Thursday, Mar. 21, at 9:00 AM in the church kitchen. Co-hostesses will be Peggy Barath & Coralie Smittkamp, with Peggy Barath bringing the lesson.

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

Don't forget the Women's Workshop this Thursday, Mar. 14, at 9:30 AM.

CWF BLESSING BOX CALENDAR

Count your "Blessings" through March with the CWF calendar.

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are welcome to the Disciple Men's breakfast on Saturday, March 16, at 8:00 AM at the Main Street Café.

HAM LOAVES

It's time to order your Ham Loaves - handmade by our Disciples Men! Orders are due in no later than Wednesday, April 3.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Community Kitchen is next Monday, March 18. Sign-up to help serve or bring desserts!

WEEK OF COMPASSION

Our total for the Week of Compassion offering is \$806. Thank you!

AED CLASS

Several signed up to learn how to use the AED unit that we have available. Candi Milam is an instructor and has agreed to have a class the first Saturday of May, the 4th. We are currently working on the details; so more to come later!

Thank You!

To all of our new family at FCC-Paris, Thank you for your abundant love that surely comes from God. You have overwhelmed us through your outpouring of generosity and graciousness. You have gone above and beyond to be here for us and welcoming us to the community.

Praise be to God, Pastor Parky & Kendala

To everyone who showed love to me and my family when my son died, we send our love and affection to them. Thank you so much for caring. In God's Love, Monica Rollings



YG/CR/GG Youth group is every Sunday from 6:30-8; please join us! Cross Roads and God's Gang has resumed! The theme this year is "Everyday Superheroes," we are learning about how people we know and love can be our heroes. This week our guest hero will be: teachers.

Upcoming Events This Friday, March 15th, we will once again be making a delivery to our friends at Bridges. Let us praise God a little extra this month because we have the opportunity to not only provide lunch for them but also eat lunch with them!

At the end of this month, March 29th, the youth group will be trying out a new event that I stole from my youth group days called "MTV Awards." Although the acronym may commonly be known for something else, like the real MTV Awards, we have made it into our own! We will watch videos and give out awards just like the official awards, but instead of movies with big budgets, they will be homemade videos made by the youth, so you can expect some interesting outcomes. We will have a theme for the night of what to come dressed as and the theme is: duct tape! So come dressed as whatever you like, just be sure the costume is made of duct tape!

Next month, we have another new event, but this one is bigger! The plan is to get together with the other youth groups in town for a few days of service and love throughout the community, and it will be called 'Mission Edgar.' The mornings will have community work and service and in the afternoon, we will visit with friends and strangers at the nursing homes. This has the potential to do a lot good, not just in our youth group and church, but in all churches and across the community! So please pray that this works out well and that God blesses this experience.

Summer camp may seem far away, but registration is not; I would highly suggest signing up for summer camp as soon as you can! This year, we will not be promoting Camp Walter Scott like we usually do. This year, we are encouraging the youth to sign at Camp Illiana. The dates are: Middle School 1 June 9-14; High School 1 May 28-June 1. Both camps cost \$269, but the church will pay for half to encourage attendance, so that's only \$135 for you! Plus we will be having fundraisers to help with that amount as well. If all goes according to plan I will be a counselor at both of these camps, so there will be at least one friendly face there! Registration forms are out in the hallway - or can be completed online.

- John Snidle, Youth Minister





THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

201 S. Main St., Paris, Illinois 61944

Phone 217-466-3255

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 AM-12 NN, 1-4 PM

E-mail: firstchristian@nwcable.net

Web page: www.fccparis.org ~ Facebook: FCCParis

John Snidle, Youth & Family Minister

PERMIT #147

Paris, Illinois

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID



COME WORSHIP WITH US

EARLY WORSHIP 8:00 AM ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM ~ WORSHIP 10:00 AM

MISSION STATEMENT First Christian Church's mission is to grow disciples who are:

"Believing in Christ,

Behaving as Christ,

Becoming like Christ"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ATTENDANCE

We count because you count!

March 10: 8:00 - 45 10:00 - 102 Nursery - 2

TOTAL: 149

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Nursery - 0; PreK-1st - 0, 2nd-5th - 2, Jr & Sr High - 0, New Disciples - 11, Open Door - 22, New Horizons - 10

TOTAL SS = 45

OFFERING TOTALS

March 10, 2019

General Fund	\$4,221.00
Sunday School	22.00
Food Pantry	100.00
Emergency Fund	10.00
Choices Pregnancy & Health	50.00
Community Kitchen	50.00
God's Gang	25.00
Youth Fund (includes reimb. \$460)	510.00
Disciples Outreach/Missions	165.00
Week of Compassion Offering	103.00
Church Bus Fund	50.00
Church Organ Fund	50.00
Scholarship Fund	30.00
Permanent Fund	50.00
Building Fund	400.00
TOTAL	\$5,836.00

SERVING SCHEDULE: March 17, 2019 LENT

8:00 AM: ELDER: Daryl Bridwell

DEACONESS: Carla Keltz

PIANIST: Sandy Templeton

9:00 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: GREETERS:

EAST: Dan, Lisa, Ethan, Mya Smittkamp

WEST: Doug & Jane Smittkamp

ACOLYTES: Mya & Ethan Smittkamp

WORSHIP LEADER: Kristin Chittick

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONESS: Mary Helen Hamilton

DEACONS: Team 1, Doug Smittkamp, Captain; Candi

Milam, Doc & Donna Moody, Dean Smittkamp, Kevin

Woods, Margo Yeargin, Bruce Young

JR DEACONS: Team #1, Greg Johnson, Capt., Gage

Johnson, Austin Kirk, Cydney Miller, Jaydin Seeley

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Pastor John Snidle

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Jenny McMahan

NURSERY HELPER: Graham Templeton

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Edna Creech

SOUND SYSTEM: Tony Peel

PROJECTION: Chris Milam

MARCH FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Susan King, James Brooks

MARCH USHERS: Randy Creech, Chris Milam,

Dwight Robinson

SCRIPTURE: Luke 13:31-35

SERMON: "Go and Tell That Fox" by Rev. Mark Parkinson

SERMON SYNOPSIS

I found it quite unusual in this scripture reading that some of the Pharisees actually came and told Jesus that his life was in danger from King Herod. Jesus quickly responded with a summary of what He had been doing in the region and what He planned to do in the coming days and weeks. And - He tells those Pharisees to send a very staunch reply to inform Herod that his threats didn't bother Him. In that reply, we see a great picture of what was about to take place in the ministry and life of Jesus.